

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 PER-03 ABF-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

OMB-01 EB-07 /048 W

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R 300853Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4581

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS MANILA 6011

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AMGT, APER

SUBJ: REPROGRAMMING OF E/C POSITIONS

REF: (A) STATE 101921 (B) MANILA 5177

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO REITERATE ITS REQUEST FOR TWO ADDITIONAL FSLE COMMERCIAL SPECIALISTS WHICH WERE MADE IN THE FY 76 AND FY 77 COUNTRY COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS. ONE FSLE WOULD BE A MARKET RESEARCH SPECIALIST AND THE OTHER AN EXPORT PROMOTION SPECIALIST WHO WILL ASSIST IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING DISPLAY PROGRAMS FOR THE U.S. BUSINESS CENTER. IT MAY BE RECALLED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ASSISTED IN ESTABLISHING THE BUSINESS CENTER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FIRST USG TRADE SHOW "PROCESS CONTROLS USA" IN 1975. THE COST OF THE TWO SPECIALISTS WOULD BE \$2,000 EACH PER ANNUM. THE SERVICES REPRESENTED BY THESE TWO POSITIONS COULD BE OBTAINED UNDER CONTRACT. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT REGARD THIS AS AN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE SINCE THE COST WOULD BE \$15,000 PER ANNUM.

2. THE INSPECTORS (IN OCTOBER 1975) DID NOT ENDORSE THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR THE TWO ADDITIONAL FSLE'S. INSTEAD, THEY MADE THE ASTONISHING RECOMMENDATION THAT THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARIAN POSITION BE ABOLISHED. THIS WAS A RECOMMENDATION WHICH WE COULD NOT ACCEPT FOR IT WOULD MEAN CLOSING DOWN THE LIBRARY. WE BELIEVE THE BASIS OF THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION WAS IN THE EXTENSIVE SICK UNCLASSIFIED

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AND ANNUAL LEAVE WHICH THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARIAN, BECAUSE

OF A FIDDICULT PREGNANCY, WAS FORCED TO TAKE DURING 1975. THIS LED THEM TO THE OVERLY SIMPLIFIED CONCLUSION THAT SINCE THE SECTION GOT ALONG WITHOUT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, IT COULD DO WITHOUT PERMANENTLY. IN FACT, THE SECTION WAS ONLY ABLE TO ABSORB THE DEFICIENCY BY EXTENSIVE OVERTIME ON THE PART OF OTHERS, SUBSTITUTE HELP, AND SOME WORK DID NOT GET DONE. WE HAVE INFORMED THE DPEARTMENT WE DO NOT INTEND TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATION.

3. IT MAY BE USEFUL TO POINT OUT THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE UNITED STATES. DIRECT AND INDIRECT AMERICAN INVESTMENTS ARE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$2 BILLION AT CURRENT MARKET PRICES. THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND OF REGIONAL U.S. CORPORATION OFFICES IS HIGH AND INCREASING. TWO-WAY TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES DOUBLED FROM \$856.9 MILLION IN 1972 TO \$1,887.4 MILLION IN 1974. THE LONG HISTORICLA ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS RESULTED IN AN ABIDING, PROFITABLE NETWORK OF RELATIONS BUT COUPLED WITH DIFFICULT PROBLEMS DEMANDING CONSTANT ATTENTION FROM THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL STAFF. THESE FACTORS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUUNT BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO MEET THESE GROWING DEMANDS.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA06011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760169-0051
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976043/aaaaacdq.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION MMO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 101921, 76 MANILA 5177
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPROGRAMMING OF E/C POSITIONS
TAGS: BEXP, AMGT, APER
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006